



# Preparedness Quarterly

January 2008

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## Citizen Corps Initiatives



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## Update on State of Michigan Citizen Corps Council

By: F/Lt. Harold Love, Citizen Corps Program Manager

The Michigan Citizen Corps Council was abolished as a result of Executive Order (2007-18) promulgated by Governor Granholm in May 2007, which also abolished the Michigan Hazard Mitigation Coordinating Council (MHMCC) and State Emergency Response Commission (SERC).

The Order also formed the Michigan Citizen-Community Emergency Response Coordinating Council (MCCERCC), which will serve as an advisory body within the Department of State Police and assume the functions and responsibilities of the MHMCC, SERC and MCCC.

Captain Eddie

Washington, Deputy State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, has been appointed by the Governor to chair the MCCERCC. Other appointments have also been made from various organizations throughout the state.

With assistance and input from our regional Citizen Corps Councils, a statewide Citizen Corps focus group with representation from all seven regions was created. The purpose of the focus group is to provide local input and guidance to the MCCERCC regarding decisions related to Citizen Corps programs and planning. The focus group has held two very

productive meetings to date, and I believe it will serve as an effective means of ensuring all concerns regarding the Michigan Citizen Corps Program are acknowledged and addressed by the MCCERCC.

The following vision statement was drafted for this focus group:

***To guide the Michigan Citizen Corps program in creating a safer and more prepared state.***

For questions or comments on the statewide focus group or status of the statewide Citizen Corps Council, please contact either F/Lt. Harold Love (517) 333-5038, [loveh@michigan.gov](mailto:loveh@michigan.gov) or Sgt. Kevin Sweeney (517) 336-6429, [sweeneyk@michigan.gov](mailto:sweeneyk@michigan.gov).

## 2008 Citizen Corps Volunteer Conference

Region 6 and the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division are hosting the 2008 Citizen Corps Volunteer Conference.

A conference designed for the front line volunteer in one of the five affiliate Citizen Corps programs; Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT),

Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), Fire Corps, and Medical Reserve Corps.

The conference is being held May 2, 3, and 4 at the Ramada Inn in Grayling. Each region is being allocated 10 slots for volunteers, with no cost, short of a \$25.00 committal fee.

Each region can send up to 10 additional volunteers at a cost of \$200.00 per volunteer (this includes room, meals, and attendance).

For a copy of the agenda and/or a registration form, please contact Sgt. Kevin Sweeney of the Michigan State Police at (517) 336-6429 or [sweeneyk@michigan.gov](mailto:sweeneyk@michigan.gov).

## Honoring Fire Week

Published By: Macomb Township Chronicle

To help commemorate Fire Prevention Week in October, the Macomb Township Fire Department partnered with the Macomb Township Fire Corps and township administrators to provide fire safety programs for local children.

To honor those who suffered from the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, firefighters helped spread their knowledge about fire safety to local preschoolers, kindergarteners, as well as first and second graders, while letting them see exactly what goes on at fire stations near their homes. Through the program, the Fire Department planned to reach 3,000 students.

Kindergarteners from

Ojibwa Elementary School spent their first field trip of the school year at the fire station on Oct. 2, 2007 learning how to safely escape a house fire. Some of the fire safety tips the children learned included "Stop, drop and roll," meeting places, prevention do's and don'ts, and crawling under "blankets" of smoke.

And if the knowledge alone was not enough to hold their attention, firefighters took the students on a virtual tour of a fire engine and let them have a pull at the fire hose.

"This was a cooperative effort," said Sgt. Dwayne Thompson of the Macomb Township Fire Department. "It took months of planning to get

this going."

This year's fire safety theme was to devise an escape plan, Thompson said to a group of wide-eyed kindergarteners. He and Fire Corps member Cindy Kokotovich explained that the most important thing to do when first discovering a fire in the house is to get out.

Many of the students in the station were startled by the sound of the smoke detector Thompson used in his demonstration and admitted they had never heard one before.

Thompson and Kokotovich sent students home that day to demand their parents devise a fire escape plan and meeting place, and to show them what the fire alarm sounds like.

## Burt Township CERT Exercise

By: Nancy Weston, Burt Township Citizen Corps Coordinator

The Burt Township CERT recently organized and executed a combined emergency services exercise on Dec. 11, 2007, where CERT interacted with EMS, fire, law enforcement, school, and township personnel to mitigate a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) and evacuation exercise.

The incident involved an evacuation of a high

school due to an unknown emergency. Students, faculty, and community volunteers were transported via bus to the local community center. While en route, one of the buses was hit by a drunk driver resulting in various injuries.

During the exercise, CERT members practiced communications, response, triage, and

incident command.

The real simulation of the bus accident was a great opportunity for CERT volunteers to implement MCI procedures and intra-agency response. In addition, the after action review helped identify strengths and weaknesses to be improved in future situations.

### Burt Township CERT Exercise



CERT volunteers preparing the Community Center for individuals evacuated from the high school.



CERT volunteers assisting individuals at the bus-car accident.

## Congratulations

Sgt. Dwayne Thompson of the Macomb Township Fire Department was named the "Fire Fighter of the Year" by the Macomb County Fire Chief's Association for his hard work and dedication with the Fire Corps Program.

## Preparedness Workshops

The Arab/Chaldean-American Disaster Preparedness Advisory Committee was established in June 2007 to better prepare, improve the safety of, and enhance the overall readiness of the Arab/Chaldean – American community in the event of a manmade or natural disaster.

Members include the Michigan State Police EMHSD, Arab American Chaldean Council (ACC), Wayne County Emergency Management,

City of Detroit EM, City of Southfield EM, City of Dearborn EM, City of Dearborn Heights EM, and the City of Ann Arbor EM.

During September and October, the committee hosted five "Disaster Preparedness Workshops" to help educate the Arab/Chaldean- American community about preparing themselves, their family, and their community for a disaster.

The workshops were

held in Southfield, Detroit, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, and Ann Arbor.

The committee meets at least once a month and continues to develop ways to better prepare the Arab/Chaldean – American community for an emergency.

To learn more about this committee, please contact Sgt. Kevin Sweeney of the Michigan State Police at (517) 336-6429 or [sweeneyk@michigan.gov](mailto:sweeneyk@michigan.gov).

## New Alcona County CERT

By: Tim London, Alcona County Emergency Management Coordinator

Alcona County now has a trained CERT. The basic CERT training took place on Sept. 6, 13, and 20, 2007, in the Alcona County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the First Aid portion was given on Dec. 6.

Howard Wetters, Chris Izvorski, and Matt Blythe of Bay County conducted the basic CERT training and the American Red Cross out of West Branch

conducted the First Aid training. A total of 17 personnel are now certified CERT volunteers in Alcona County.

Alcona County is especially blessed because many of the CERT volunteers also belong to the International Federation of Chaplains (IFOC); all are either certified as Chaplains or in the process.

We believe the

Chaplains bring along their own brand of training and experience that will make their involvement even more beneficial to the community.

The Alcona County CERT also has several Registered Nurses and one Medical Doctor. All the volunteers bring a lifetime of experience with them, which Alcona County appreciates very much.



Members of the new Alcona County CERT after completing training in December 2007.



## Montcalm MRC Distributes Disaster Kits

By: Denise Hubbard, United Way & Volunteer Connections of Montcalm

Heroes come in all sizes. Montcalm Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) members recently asked fourth and fifth grade students to be heroes for their families by preparing for a disaster situation.

The Montcalm MRC members distributed more than 600 start-up Family Disaster Kits to fourth and fifth graders in the county's elementary schools. This was the second year for the project, which has delivered nearly 1,000 kits in two years.

The kits include a full checklist of needed items, an Emergency Preparedness booklet, and information about resources for more information. The kits also include a few items to get

families started on putting their full box together, such as tissues, band-aids, bottled water, a battery operated radio or flashlight, and any other small items that were provided through donations.

MRC members delivered this year's kits beginning in October 2007, with the final schools completed in early 2008. In the first year, members developed a curriculum that discusses the importance of preparedness, other items that should be included in the kits, and how students can be 'heroes' for their family by taking the kit home and explaining what they learned with their parents and siblings.

Students are also

encouraged to help their family add other items to the kit, identify a safe place to keep the kit, and practice their family safety plan on a regular basis.

The project has been rewarding for MRC members as a way to involve students in emergency preparedness. The impact of this project was clear in the letters that students wrote following the presentations.

The Montcalm MRC includes more than 30 members who are coordinated through the United Way & Volunteer Connections of Montcalm County. For more information about the Family Disaster Kits, contact Denise Hubbard, (616) 225-1082.

*"In the first year, members developed a curriculum that discusses the importance of preparedness, other items that should be included in the kits, and how students can be 'heroes' for their family by taking the kit home and explaining what they learned with their parents and siblings."*

-Denise Hubbard

## Angel's Night Patrol in Dearborn

Published by: Press and Guide

Members of Dearborn's all-volunteer CERT helped keep watch against acts of vandalism around the city on Oct. 30 — Angel's Night.

CERT volunteers undergo training to play a supporting role to public safety officials in the event of a community emergency, such as a tornado.

The volunteers act under the direction of Mayor John B. O'Reilly, Jr., and other City officials. CERT is a nationally-recognized program.

On Angel's Night, CERT members conducted volunteer patrols of Dearborn neighborhoods to help reduce the possibility of vandalism or other problems.

Volunteers used their own vehicles, wore CERT shirts, hats or vests, and were ready to contact police if and when they encountered any incidents.

We appreciate their commitment to serving our community in so many ways," said Fire

Department Lt. Brad Smith, the city of Dearborn's emergency management coordinator.

As a rule, emergency services personnel are the best equipped to respond to emergencies. However, CERT teams can handle initial emergencies until professional first responders arrive at the scene.

During non-emergency situations, CERT teams donate their time and participate in community-organized programs.

## Calhoun County CERT

By: Lori Phillips, Calhoun County Volunteer Coordinator

The Calhoun County CERT had a very successful year in 2007. More than 50 new team members graduated and the 2008 training schedule is ready.

In addition, the Damage Assessment Team is up and running and is ready for the spring storm season.

The Pennfield High School Teen CERT and the adult CERT had a great time participating in the Battle Creek Holiday parade. The teen CERT accomplished a great deal in the last year and we

hope to get more schools involved in 2008.

We would like to thank everyone who helped us

in 2007 and we look forward to building even more relationships this year.



Calhoun County CERT members at the Battle Creek Holiday parade.

## Fundraising Opportunity for MRC and CERT

By: Alexanne Stone, Kent County MRC Coordinator

Several of Kent County's Medical Reserve Corps volunteers have been licensed as instructors for the AdventureMed LLC, University of Utah School of Medicine, wilderness life support classes.

The volunteers have created a traveling training that is open to all MRC and CERT programs throughout the Great Lakes Area and New York State.

Depending on the number of participants and level of medical training, you could earn as much as \$2,000 for your organization.

When you host an

event, we will send instructors to do the lecturing and training. We ask for qualified medical and non-medical support people to assist in putting the training together and actively participating in the training.

You find the location, market the course, provide food, and supply volunteers to assist, and we will do the rest.

During the Advanced Wilderness Life Support® course, participants will learn how to prevent medical problems, reduce suffering, and save lives in non-traditional medical settings. For licensed medical professionals

only.

The Basic Wilderness Life Support® is designed for non-medical individuals who are active in the outdoors, such as hikers, boaters, campers, and hunters. Participants will learn how to prepare for an outing, assess injuries and scene safety, decide whether to evacuate or treat a patient, and methods of patient evacuation. This course is open to the general public.

For more information on how to host one of the courses, please contact Alexanne Stone at (616) 451-8438 or [astone@kcems.org](mailto:astone@kcems.org)

To host a Wilderness Life Support course, contact Alexanne Stone at (616) 451-8438 or [astone@kcems.org](mailto:astone@kcems.org)

## Fire Corps Nominated for President's Award

Published by: Macomb Township Chronicle

The Macomb Township Fire Corps has been up and running around the community since April of 2007. Now their hard work is beginning to gain recognition.

The National Fire Corps Organization has recently nominated Macomb Township's 26 Fire Corps members, ranging from teens to older adults, to receive the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Sgt. Dwayne Thompson thinks they're all well deserving of the achievement and has his fingers crossed that they'll be chosen to meet the president and receive the award.

"Without their help, we wouldn't be able to deliver as many services to the community as we're able to," he said. "They donate a piece of their schedule to make this township a better place."

Serving the 78,000 residents of Macomb Township, the volunteers help the Fire Department with a variety of community activities and training.

Thompson said every member's duties are equally helpful.

Member responsibilities include any thing from photography and data input, to helping deliver fire safety presentations

and working on public service announcements.

Their enthusiasm in helping their Fire Department and community is refreshing, he added.

"They're given an opportunity to do something they consider to be fun and they're helping out at the same time. It makes me happy for them that they are getting recognized."

And Thompson isn't the only one rooting for the Macomb Township Fire Corps in achieving the President's Volunteer Service Award.

National Fire Corps Director Melissa Speed said the Macomb Township's Fire Corps does fantastic work.

"We certainly hope that Macomb Township will be chosen," she said. "They will be profiled on the Fire Corps Web site this January."

To date, there have been more than 656,000 President's Volunteer Service Awards given to individuals and groups nationwide.

Speed said that although many National Fire Corps groups and individuals have been nominated for the award, only about a handful from the organization have actually received it.

National Fire Corps is a certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award and submits nominations directly.

"This is a nice way to recognize the commitment, time and effort of the volunteers," said Speed. "If selected, they can meet with the president when he's on his trips as presidential greeters."

Within the next few weeks, Macomb Township will be profiled on the National Fire Corps Web site demonstrating what its fire corps members have done using the program and what has been accomplished within their community.

"It's a way other programs can look to our Web site to enhance their own local programs," she added.

As far as Thompson is concerned, he's just thankful for the group of individuals chosen to work along side him and his fellow firefighters. He said he's proud of the benchmarks his group has accomplished, making recognition like this available.

"It's a collective thing," said Thompson. "I want to tell them 'thank you.'"

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-Macomb Township  
Chronicle

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**We want to  
hear from you!**

Submit your articles  
and photos to  
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The deadline for the next  
issue is **April 4, 2008**.

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[www.michigan.gov/emhsd](http://www.michigan.gov/emhsd)

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## Upcoming Events & Themes

March 1-31	Great American Cleanup
April 22-24	2008 Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference and Expo, DeVos Place, Grand Rapids
May 2-4	2008 Citizen Corps Volunteer Conference, Grayling
June 5-6	CERT Train-the-Trainer, Crest Center, Auburn Hills
July 21-22	CERT Train-the-Trainer, American Red Cross, Grand Rapids
November 20-21	CERT Train-the-Trainer, Crest Center, Auburn Hills

Please submit articles and upcoming events for publication to [citizencorps@michigan.gov](mailto:citizencorps@michigan.gov). The deadline for the next issue is **April 4, 2008**.

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